

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ MANUEL  
CARABALLO BRAVO

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Manuel Caraballo Bravo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Caraballo Bravo is an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba and has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of the tyrant's villainous regime. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Caraballo Bravo was a target of the totalitarian regime.

I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression. The courageous men and women, such as Mr. Caraballo Bravo, who write the truth are the enemies of Castro's totalitarian dictatorship.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Caraballo Bravo was arrested just before the heinous crackdown of March 2003. Reporters Without Borders also reports that he was sentenced to three years in the totalitarian gulag for "forging documents."

Let me be very clear, Mr. Caraballo Bravo is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Caraballo Bravo is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people. Let us never forget and always support those who are struggling to liberate peoples from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. In the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for writing the truth. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of José Manuel Caraballo Bravo.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY AND SHOGHAGAT ARMENIAN CHURCH

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

the 50th Anniversary of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church located in Swansea, Illinois.

The Church has historically been an integral part of the Armenian community. Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity as its official religion in 301 A.D. So it was natural that the Independent Club, an organization of Armenian Americans, would seek to start a church for their community in 1956.

The new Church, then named Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church, began in a small white structure at 13th and Summit Avenue in East St. Louis, Illinois. A neighboring parish house and additional parcel of land were later acquired.

Circumstances required that the original church properties be sold in the early 1970's and for several years the congregation had to celebrate the liturgy in different local churches. Throughout this difficult period, the parish family stayed together and finally, in 1978, the new Church in Swansea, Illinois was consecrated.

On the occasion of their 50th Anniversary, in addition to celebrating that milestone for their local Church, the members of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church are paying tribute to their ancestors who were victims of the Armenian Genocide, both those who lost their lives and those who survived. A large khatchkar, carved in Armenia, will be dedicated to honor those who suffered during that terrible period in history.

For 50 years, Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church has served, not only as a place of worship, but as a unifying religious center for the local Armenian community. Though their numbers may be small, their dedication to their Church and their culture remains strong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th Anniversary of Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat Armenian Church and to wish the best to them for many years to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 994, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. MELISSA L. BEAN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2006*

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, every one of us in this chamber mourns the murder of the nearly 3,000 innocent people on September 11th. We all want to take the fight to the terrorists and protect America from those bent on harming us. Each of us wants to commemorate the deaths of the innocent and reaffirm our creed to never forget with an honest, humble, non-partisan Resolution.

We have shared goals, and we can come together and write a Resolution we can all support and of which the American people can be proud.

I am saddened today that partisan politics have entered into the debate of this Resolution today, and that language was deliberately used in this Resolution which is divisive and unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this Resolution, but I regret that it could not have been more

unifying, and I regret that the debate in the House could not have risen above the political fray for just one day.

HONORING 9/11

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, five years ago this week, our generation was defined by the heroic actions of hundreds of first responders, brave Americans and innocent victims who gave their lives on September 11, 2001. That day, 19 Al Qaeda hijackers murdered nearly 3,000 innocent people. Those terrorists had a simple cause: inflict the highest loss of life and the most damage they could to our Nation. They may have succeeded in murdering thousands of people going about their daily lives, but they failed miserably to defeat the patriotic spirit of America and of freedom everywhere.

In the days, weeks and months following the tragic events of September 11th, we saw the patriotic spirit of every American emerge and rally in support of repair and recovery. We saw a nation unified in finding the perpetrators of these crimes and bringing them to justice, and we saw the free world awakened to the possibility of terrorist attacks anywhere and at any time. Simply, 9/11 changed our Nation and the world forever.

Not only did these terrorists steal the lives of thousands, but they opened our eyes to our false sense of security. Like someone who has been robbed at home by a vicious criminal, we must now lock our doors and windows at all times to make sure that those who mean us harm are not allowed to break in.

That being said, I believe that we are safer at home today than we were 5 years ago, but we are still not safe. Our borders are more secure, our intelligence services are more robust and now work closely together, and our armed services have routed out the terrorists in their homes and brought them to justice. But we are still at war. We cannot afford to stand idly by while terrorists operate in this or any country around the world, because we cannot afford another 9/11. Never again can this happen. We owe to the American people who depend on us to provide a safe and secure homeland, and we owe to it the hundreds of thousands of Americans who throughout history have died defending the democracy and freedom we enjoy today. Most of all we owe it to the thousands of innocent victims who died 5 years ago.

We have been battling terrorism for a long time, but September 11th was the day our enemies woke the sleeping giant. Since then, we have seen success in the Global War on Terror and captured some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. We have also made great strides to cripple the organizations and countries that support them. However, we are still faced with an evil enemy who is supported by a rogue nation that's determined to develop nuclear weapons and use them on their enemies. Allowing a nation like Iran, who sponsors terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, to